



New Jersey Community Input on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) ***December 2016***

Over the last four months, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has had the opportunity to meet with representatives from many communities – organizations, parents, students, and teachers – from all over the state. The Department deeply appreciates the passion and dedication of the communities and organizations that have shared their experience and expertise with us so far, and we look forward to hearing more feedback from communities on the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. This document is a non-exhaustive summary of a few preliminary trends that have arisen during our outreach efforts when the NJDOE has asked communities to answer the following questions:

- How can you tell whether a school is successful? What do you see occurring?
- How do you know whether a school is failing to provide the educational experiences that your children/students need?
- What pieces of information about your school or the schools in your district do you find most valuable? Why?

What do New Jersey's Communities Care About?

Communities want schools to provide challenging and exploratory opportunities for whole-child development. Giving all students a chance to thrive and explore new areas and opportunities to grow is vital to their success. For instance, dual and concurrent course programs challenge high-achieving students and reduce the costs of college courses later. Students should be provided with opportunities to reach their fullest potential and be better prepared for life beyond high school. For example, students should have chances to explore high-skill and high-demand careers as an alternative to, or in addition to, pursuing a four-year degree. Or they should have access to a robust curriculum that values arts, technology, library media skills and sciences and also includes work-based learning. Additionally, communities want to see districts and schools provide programs that boost students' chances of academic success, such as access to full-day kindergarten, quality universal pre-kindergarten, Head Start, and ample supports for English language learners and their families.

Communities look for school climates that provide safe and healthy environments that lead to student learning. Many community members have recognized that students need to be in school and in their classrooms to be successful and they believe that an indication that schools are providing safe and welcoming educational settings is when teachers and students are consistently present. Related, some stakeholders want to see more positive intervention strategies, like restorative justice, that work to support students and keep them in class and engaged. For this reason, communities want to know how frequently suspensions, expulsions, and referrals to law enforcement are occurring at their schools. In addition, students often need physical, social and emotional support, which the work of school nurses, counselors, social workers and psychologists can provide. Finally, the following indicators of safe and healthy environments can include up-to-date facilities; access to resources like before, after and summer school enrichment, opportunities to move, play and be active; and effective uses of technology.

Communities identify excellent teachers and school leaders as critical elements of their students' success. According to our online survey, almost 70 percent of participating parents noted "teachers" as the leading factor that makes schools excellent. In addition, over half of participating parents believe teacher experience and effectiveness should be publicly reported. Other stakeholders have agreed - teacher retention and opportunities for students to be taught by teachers from similar backgrounds are important indicators of a school's success. Our communities believe that teachers support our students



The New Jersey Department of Education

best when they teach within their area of certification and are prepared and trained to thoroughly understand the many factors that impact student success, such as English learning status, social and emotional wellbeing, and health. Our communities want teachers who can meet the needs of all students. To do that, teachers must have up-to-date resources and professional development opportunities to continuously improve their practice.

Communities value welcoming school community centers and healthy parent and family engagement.

Our stakeholders see such family engagement as one of the most important ways to support students' social and emotional health, and academic progress. According to our stakeholders, this means promoting parent engagement in events, making opportunities for feedback more accessible to parent schedules, and continuing to stay in communication with parents and families throughout the year to monitor student progress.

In addition, the NJDOE has also heard that student and teacher mobility, staffing support for students with disabilities, and additional resources for English learners and migrant students are topics that matter to communities.



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Representatives from the following organizations have engaged in conversations with us:

Abbott Leadership Institute
Advocates for Children of NJ (ACNJ)
Aging Out Project
Agudath Israel of America NJ Office
AIM Institute for Learning and Research
Alliance for Newark Public Schools
American Federation of Teachers – NJ Chapter
American Heart Association
ARC of NJ
Archway Programs
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in NJ
Association of Language Arts Teachers- NJ
Association of Student Assistance Professionals of NJ
Atlantic County Juvenile Detention Center
Baby World- Jersey City
Badass Teacher Association
Bergen County Special Services
Boys & Girls Clubs in NJ
Burlington County Council
Burlington County Juvenile Detention Center
Camden City Juvenile Detention Center
Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen
Center for Family Resources
Center for Family Services
Center for Neurological and Neurodevelopmental Health
Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)
Charter School Association
Cherry Hill Public Schools
Child Advocacy Clinic
Children's Home Society
Choice Media
Citizens for a Diverse and Open Society
Collier Youth Services
Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
Cumberland Empowerment
Department of Children and Families - Office of Child Care
Licensing Disability Rights NJ

Diocese of Trenton
Education Law Center
Educational Services Commission of NJ
Essex County Juvenile Detention Center
Essex County Local Education Agency
Foreign Language Educators of NJ
Garden State Coalition of Schools
Great Schools NJ
Guttenburg
Junior Achievement of NJ
Junior League
Juvenile Justice Commission
Latino Action Network
Legal Defense Fund
Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf
Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center
Montclair State University
Morris County School Nurses
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People- Newark Chapter
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People- Trenton Chapter
National Association of School Nurses
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
National Council of La Raza
National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)
National School Climate Center
NJ Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development
NJ Arts Education Partnership
NJ Association for Curriculum Development
NJ Association for Educational Technology (NJ AET)
NJ Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC)
NJ Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance
NJ Association for School Administrators (NJASA)
NJ Association for the Deaf (NJAD)

NJ Association for the Education of Young Children
NJ Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
NJ Association of Federal Program Administrators (NJAFPA)
NJ Association of Independent Schools
NJ Association of School Psychologists (NJASP)
NJ Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU)
NJ Association of Student Councils
NJ Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (NJASCD)
NJ Bilingual Educators (NJBE)
NJ Black Alliance for Educational Options
NJ Business and Industry Association
NJ Business/Technology Education Association (NJBTEA)
NJ Catholic Conference
NJ Center for Civic Education
NJ Chamber of Commerce
NJ Charter School Association (NJ CSA)
NJ Child Care Aware
NJ City University - Professional Studies
NJ Council for Social Studies
NJ Council of County Colleges
NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools
NJ County Teachers of the Year
NJ Department of Children & Families
NJ Department of Corrections
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ Education Association (NJEA)
NJ Future Educators Association
NJ Head Start Association
NJ Juvenile Justice Commission
NJ Library Association
NJ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Statewide Education Committee
NJ Network of Catholic School Families and Government Funded Programs

NJ Parent Teacher Association (NJPTA)
NJ Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA)
NJ School Age Care Coalition
NJ School Boards Association (NJSBA)
NJ School-Age Care Coalition (NJ SACC)
NJ Special Parent Advocacy Group
NJ State Board of Education
NJ State School Nurses Association (NJSSNA)
NJ Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (NJ SPAN)
NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
NJ Technology and Engineering Association (NJTEEA)
Not in Our Town (NIOT) Princeton Chapter
Ocean City Juvenile Detention Center
Parent Education Organizing Council
Paterson Education Fund
Piscataway Public Library
Readorium
Ruach Outreach Ministries
Saint Peters University – 21st CCLC
Institute of Excellence
SOS NJ
Special Olympics NJ; School and Community Partnerships
Sussex County Educational Services Commission - Northern Hills Academy
Teach for America (TFA) NJ
The College Board
The Late Bloomers Project
The NJ Campaign for Achievement Now (NJ CAN)
The Opportunity Institute
Trenton STEM to Civics
Union City Juvenile Detention Center
Union County Office
United Methodist Women
We Raise NJ



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We have engaged in conversations with individuals from these communities:

Aberdeen
Absecon
Academy Charter High School
Allendale
Alloway Township
Alpha
Asbury Park
Atlantic City
Atlantic Community Charter School
Atlantic County Vocational Technical School
Audubon Public Schools
Barrington
Barnegat Township School District
Barrington School District
Bayonne
Bedminster Schools
Belleville Public Schools
Bellmawr
Bergenfield District
Berlin Community Schools
Bernardsville
Black Horse Pike Regional School Districts
Bloomfield School District
Bloomingdale School District
Bordentown Regional School District
Branchburg
Brick Township Schools
Bridgeton Public Schools
Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District
Brielle Schools
Brigantine Schools
Buena Regional School District
Burlington County
Burlington County Institute of Technology
Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools
Camden
Camden County Technical Schools
Camden's Promise Charter School
Carlstadt East Rutherford District
District
Carteret Public Schools
Carlstadt
Cedar Grove
Central Regional School District
Cherry Hill
Chester
Cinnaminson Township
Clayton Public School District
Clearview Regional High School
Clementon Elementary School
Cliffside Park School District
Clifton Public Schools
Collingswood
Colts Neck

Commercial Township
Cranford Public Schools
Cumberland County
Cumberland Regional High School
Deerfield
Delsea Regional School District
Denville
Deptford Township
Dover Public Schools
Dumont
Dunellen School District
Eagleswood Township School District
East Amwell Township Schools
East Brunswick Public Schools
East Greenwich School District
East Hanover Schools East
Orange
East Rutherford
Eastern Camden County Regional School District
Eatontown Board of Education
ECO Charter School
Edgewater Park School District
Edgewater Schools
Egg Harbor
Edison
Elizabeth Public Schools
Elmwood
Elmwood Park
Elysian Charter School
Englewood Cliffs Board of Education
Essex City School District
Ewing
Fairfield School District
Fairlawn
Fairview
Florham Park
Fort Lee
Franklin Township Public Schools
Freedom Prep Charter School
Freehold
Freehold Regional High School District – Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Galloway Township
Garfield Public Schools
Garwood Schools
Gateway Regional High School
Glen Rock Schools
Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School
Gloucester
Greater Egg Harbor
Green Brook
Greenwich Township
Hackensack Public Schools
Hackettstown Public Schools
Haddon Township Public Schools

Haddonfield
Hamilton Township
Hampton Township Board of Education
Hanover Park Regional High School
Hardyston Public Schools
Harrison Public Schools
Haworth Schools
Hazlet Schools
Highland Park
Hillsdale Schools
Hillside School District
Hoboken School District
Holmdel
Hope Community Charter School
Hopewell
Howell
Hudson County Office of Education
Hudson County Schools of Technology
Hunterdon Central Regional High School
International Academy of Trenton
Irvington Public Schools
Jackson School District
Jamesburg Public Schools
Jersey City
Jersey City Golden Door Charter School
Keansburg
Kearny Public School District
Keyport
Kingsway
Kenilworth Schools
Kinnelon Schools
Kittatinny Regional School District
Lacey Township School District
Lafayette Township School District
Lakehurst Elementary School
Lakewood
Lawnside School District
Lawrence Township
LEAP Academy University Charter School
Lenape Regional High School District
Leonardo
Lindenwold
Linden Public Schools
Link School
Linwood Public Schools
Little Egg Harbor
Little Ferry
Little Falls Township
Livingston Public Schools
Lodi Public Schools

Logan Township School District
Long Branch Public Schools
Long Hill Township Schools
Lower Township
Lumberton School District
Lyndhurst School District
Madison Public Schools
Magnolia Schools
Mahwah Board of Education
Mahwah School District
Mainland Regional High School
Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Schools
Manasquan Public Schools
Margate Public Schools
Manahawkin
Manchester Township
Mannington
Mantua Township
Manville
Maplewood
Marlboro Township Public Schools
Mastery Schools of Camden
Matawan-Aberdeen School District
Maurice River Township Elementary School
Mercer County Technical School
Merchantville Public Schools
Metuchen School District
Middle Township Public Schools
Middlesex City School District
Mays Landing
Medford



Mercer County



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Mickleton Schools	Ogdensburg	Roxbury Schools	Upper Township School District
Middlesex County	Paramus	Ridgefield Park	Ventnor City Board of Education
Middlesex County Vocational	Parsippany	Riverdale	Vernon Township School
Technical School	Parsippany-Troy Hills School	Robbinsville	Verona
Middletown	District	Rockaway Borough	Vineland
Midland Park Schools	Palisades Park Schools	Roselle	Voorhees
Millburn Schools	Passaic Public Schools	Rumson Schools	Village Charter School
Millville Board of Education	Passaic Valley Regional	Runnemede School District	Vineland Public Charter School
Monmouth County Vocational	Paterson Public Schools	Saddle Brook	Waldwick Public School District
Technical School	Paulsboro	Salem City	Wall Township Public Schools
Monroe	Pennsauken	Salem County College	Wallington Board of Education
Montclair	Pennsville	Salem County Vocational	Warren County Technical School
Montgomery Township	Pequanock	Technical School	Warren Hill Regional School
Montvale	Perth Amboy	Sayreville Public Schools	District
Morris Township	Pemberton Township Schools	Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools	Washington Township School
Morris County Vocational	Phillipsburg School District	Sea Girt Elementary School	District
School District	Pine Hill School District	Seaside Heights School District	Watchung Borough School
Morris Hills Regional School	Piscataway	Secaucus Public School District	District
District	Pinelands	Shore Regional High School	Waterford Township School
Mount Laurel Township Schools	Pitman School District	District	District
Mountainside	Pittsgrove Township School	Somerville Public Schools	Wayne
Mt. Ephraim	District	Shamong Township	West Cape May Elementary
Mt. Olive Township School	Plainfield School District	Somers Point	School
District	Pleasantville School District	Somerset	Westfield Public Schools
Mullica Township School District	Plumsted Township Schools	South Bound Brook	Westhampton Schools
Neptune Township School	Point Pleasant Schools	South Brunswick Schools	Westwood Regional School
District	Pompton Lake Public Schools	South Hackensack Memorial	District
Netcong School District	Pompton Plains	Southampton Township Schools	Weehawken Township
New Brunswick Public Schools	Princeton Public Schools	Southern Regional High School	West Milford
New Providence School District	Princeton University	South River	West New York
Newark Educators Community	Queen City Academy Charter	Sparta	West Orange
Charter School	School	Spring Lake School District	West Trenton
Newark	Rahway Schools	Stafford Township School	Westville
Newton	Ramapo Indian Hills Regional	District	West Windsor-Plainsboro
North Arlington	High School District	Stanhope	Regional District
North Bergen	Ramsey School District	Sterling High School	Weymouth Township Schools
North Brunswick	Rancocas Valley Regional High	Stratford School District	Wildwood Catholic High School
North Hanover Township	School	Summit Public Schools	Wildwood Public Schools
North Warren Regional District	Randall Carter Elementary	Stafford	Wharton Borough
Northern Highlands	Randolph Township Schools	Summit Public Schools	Wildwood
Northern Valley Regional	Red Bank Borough Public	Swedesboro-Woolwich School	Willingboro
Schools	Schools	District	Winslow Township School
Northfield Community School	Red Bank Regional High School	Tabernacle Township School	District
North Wildwood	Ridgefield Park Public Schools	District	Woodbine Board of Education
Nutley	Ridgewood Schools	Teaneck	Woodbury Heights Elementary
Oakland	River Dell Regional School	Tenaflly	School
Oaklyn Schools	District	Tinton Falls	Woodcliff Lake School District
Ocean City School District	River Vale Schools	Toms River	Woodland Township School
Ocean County Vocational School	Robert Treat Academy Charter	Toms River Regional Schools	District
Ocean Township School District	School	Trenton	Woodridge
Old Bridge Public Schools	Rochelle Park School District	Turnersville	Woodstown-Pilesgrove School
Old Tappan	Rockaway Township Board of	Union	District
Oldmans Township	Education	Union County TEAMS Charter	Woodlynne School District
Oradell	Rosa L. Parks School of Fine &	School	Woolwich
Oradell Public Schools	Performing Arts	Union Township Public Schools	Wyckoff
Orange	Roseland Board of Education	Upper Saddle River Elementary	
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Roselle Park School District	Schools	

If you would like to see your organization represented, or if you'd like to provide feedback as the Department creates the state plan, please contact essa@doe.state.nj.us.

More information about NJ's ESSA outreach efforts, including our Outreach Calendar, can be found [on our website](#).



The New Jersey Department of Education

Meetings with our stakeholders since July 2016:

7/27	Education Law Center	9/27	ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting	10/26	New Jersey Schools Boards Association Workshop
8/2	Nonpublic Stakeholder Input Meeting	9/28	ACNJ Early Childhood Education Stakeholder Meeting	10/26	Great Schools New Jersey Fall Workshop
8/4	New Jersey Education Association	9/28	Garden State Coalition Board of Trustees	10/27	Camden Community Parent Roundtable
8/9	New Jersey Association for School Administrators	9/29	Trenton Public Schools ESEA Committee	10/28	State Professional Learning Committee Meeting
8/9	National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)	9/30	NJ Joint Council of County Special Services	11/2	NJEA South Regional Focus Group
8/15	Native Language Assessment Focus Group	9/30	Title I Committee of Practitioners	11/3	NJEA Southwest Regional Focus Group
8/16	21 st Century Learning Advisory Committee	10/6	County Education Specialists	11/4	NJEA North Regional Focus Group
8/17	NJ Charter Schools Association	10/13	Executive County Business Officials	11/4	ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting
8/24	ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting	10/13	Paterson Education Fund Parent Roundtable	11/10	NAACP Newark Community Roundtable
8/25	New Jersey Education Association	10/14	Mercer County Special Education Roundtable	11/14	County and State Teachers of the Year
9/1	County Education Specialists	10/18	Ocean County Special Education Roundtable	11/14	NJEA Southeast Focus Group
9/6	ESSA Public Listening and Learning Session 1	10/20	NJ Principals and Superintendents Association Fall Conference	11/15	AFT North Bergen Educator Roundtable
9/8	ESSA Public Listening and Learning Session 2	10/20	NJEA Central Focus Group	11/16	Garfield High School Educator Roundtable
9/14	ESSA Public Listening and Learning Session 3	10/21	ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting	11/16	ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting
9/14	Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools	10/22	Paterson Panel Discussion with NAACP Legal Defense Fund	11/16	New Jersey State School Nurses Association
9/16	NJ Principals and Superintendents Association	10/24	AFT Perth Amboy Educator Roundtable	11/17	New Jersey Association of Federal Program Administrators
9/19	Monmouth County Title I Articulation Group	10/24	Research for Action Teacher and Teacher Leader Focus Group	11/18	Leadership and Excellence in Education of the Deaf
9/22	ESSA Public Listening and Learning Session 4	10/25	Research for Action Teacher and Teacher Leader Focus Group	11/28	ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting
9/27	Nonpublic Schools Advisory Committee	10/25	NJASA Legislative Committee Meeting	11/29	New Jersey Business & Industry Association Employer Focus Group